GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6534
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2003
VISA CURB TO CHECK AIDS
JAYABEN B. THAKKAR;SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a number of AIDS infected foreigners debarred by their countries visit India for sexual gratification which results in sex-workers contracting communicable diseases including HIV/AIDS;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received any proposal from Bharatiya Patita Uddhar Sabha, New Delhi to incorporate the `Free from AIDS Virus` certificates into provisions for granting visas to any foreigner coming to this country; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) World Health Organisation guidelines on International Travel and Health, 1999, has specifically mentioned that any requirement for HIV antibody test certificate (`AIDS Free Certificate`) is contrary to the International Health Regulations. Accordingly the Governmen has approved the revised policy/guidelines, after consultation with other stakeholders viz. Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Indian Council for Cultural Research (ICCR), Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), National Law School of Indi Bangalore, etc., to dispense with the requirement of mandatory HIV testing of foreigners, including foreign students with effect from 23.9.2002.